Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the 22nd Report were sent to the Standing Committee on Defence on 10.3.2008 after seeking extension of time for the same.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in their 22nd report is indicated in the Annexure-1 to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that these may be considered as read.

Status of the Implementation of Recommendations contained in the One hundred seventy-seventh and One hundred eighty-fifth reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations pertaining to Department of Science and Technology in the One Hundred Seventy-seventh (177th) Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the direction of the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States issued *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 28, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests presented their One Hundred Seventy-seventh (177th) Report on 27 November, 2007 in the Rajya Sabha. In all there were 33 (thirty-three) recommendations in the 177th Report of the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended Annexure which may be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a fax letter has been received from Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao, stating that he is unable to attend the House, as he is suffering with gallbladder stones problem and had undergone surgery. He has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence from 17th October, 2008 till the end of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 17th October, 2008 till the end of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have also to inform Members that a fax letter has been received from Dr. K. Kasturirangan stating that he is unable to attend the House as he is busy with launch of India's Lunar Mission Chandrayaan -1 and thereafter he will be going to Vatican to receive from Pope the